

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION  
Olympia, Washington**

<b>To:</b>	Family Practice Physicians Managed Care Plans	<b>Memorandum No: 05-45 MAA</b> <b>Issued:</b> July 26, 2005
<b>From:</b>	Douglas Porter, Assistant Secretary Medical Assistance Administration (MAA)	<b>For Information Call:</b> (800) 562-6188
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Family Practice Physicians: Targeted Vendor Rate Increase for Family Practice Physicians in Rural Counties Who Perform Fee-for-Service Maternity Deliveries</b>	

**Effective for dates of service August 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006**, the Medical Assistance Administration (MAA) will implement a targeted vendor rate increase for Family Practice physicians in rural counties who perform fee-for-service maternity deliveries. This increase was appropriated by the legislature.

### **Delivery Add-on Payment**

In MAA's fiscal year 2006 budget, the Legislature appropriated a maternity delivery add-on payment of \$194.00 per delivery for Family Practice physicians whose practices are located in a rural county.

MAA will not reimburse an assistant surgeon or co-surgeon for the enhanced delivery add-on payment. Reimbursement is limited to one per client, per pregnancy.

Payments beginning August 1, 2005, are limited to those providers detailed above who bill MAA directly for fee-for-service deliveries. Additional payments for those providers who contract with managed care plans will be implemented on or around January 1, 2006, and will be detailed in a later memorandum.

## Which Washington Counties are Considered Rural?

Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 43.160.030 defines a county with a population density of fewer than 100 persons per square mile as rural. Using population-per-square-mile data from the Office of Financial Management (OFM), **the following Washington counties *do not* meet the definition of a rural county:**

- Clark;
- Island;
- King;
- Kitsap;
- Pierce;
- Snohomish;
- Spokane; and
- Thurston.

Family Practice physicians practicing in a county other than one of those listed above are eligible to bill MAA for the delivery add-on payment.

## How do I bill MAA for the Delivery Add-on Payment?

Family Practice physicians must bill MAA for the delivery add-on payment by attaching **modifier QB** to the appropriate delivery procedure code (e.g., 59400 QB). Attach modifier QB to the delivery code you are using to bill for the actual delivery.

**Modifier QB:** Physician providing service in rural HPSA  
(*Health Professional Shortage Area*).

**Bill only *ONE* line of service (e.g., 59400 QB) to receive payment for BOTH the delivery and the rural physician delivery add-on payment. *DO NOT* bill the delivery code (e.g., 59400) on one line of the claim form and the rural physician delivery add-on (e.g., 59400 QB) on a second line of the claim form.**

In addition, if the delivery is also high-risk and you are billing the high-risk add-on payment using modifier TG with the delivery code, you must attach ***both*** modifiers TG and QB to the delivery code on ***one*** line (e.g., 59400 TG QB). MAA will make additional payments for the high-risk add-on ***and*** the rural physician add-on in addition to the payment for the delivery itself.

## Diagnosis Reminder

MAA requires valid and complete ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes. When billing MAA, use the highest level of specificity (4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> digits when applicable) or the service(s) will be denied.

## How can I get MAA's provider issuances?

To obtain MAA's provider numbered memoranda and billing instructions, go to MAA's website at <http://maa.dshs.wa.gov> (click on the Billing Instructions/Numbered Memoranda or Provider Publications/Fee Schedules link).

To request a free hard copy from the Department of Printing:

1. **Go to:** <http://www.prt.wa.gov/> (Orders filled daily).
  - a) Click *General Store*.
  - b) If a **Security Alert** screen is displayed, click **OK**.
    - i. Select either *I'm New* or *Been Here*.
    - ii. If new, fill out the registration and click *Register*.
    - iii. If returning, type your email and password and then click *Login*.
  - c) At the **Store Lobby** screen, click *Shop by Agency*. Select *Department of Social and Health Services* and then select *Medical Assistance*.
  - d) Select *Billing Instructions, Forms, Healthy Options, Numbered Memo, Publications, or Issuance Correction*. You will then need to select a year and then select the item by number and title.
2. **Fax/Call:** Dept. of Printing/Attn: Fulfillment at FAX (360) 586-6361/ telephone (360) 586-6360. (Orders may take up to 2 weeks to fill.)

